

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 remain in this application. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. §03(a) as being unpatentable over Christie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,482) in view of Clarke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,550,914). Generally, the Examiner indicated that the Christie et al. reference disclosed all the elements of the claimed invention except "wherein the second point code is used to make full use of the longer and unsegmented message length." However, the Examiner went on to say that the Clarke et al. reference teaches a signal unit for transferring information across links in an SS7 network in which the MSU could be up to 273 octets maximum. Thus, supposedly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in this field of art to combine the Christie and Clarke references so as to arrive at the present invention.

First of all, Applicant respectfully submits that it is true, and significant, that the Christie reference does not disclose a second point code which is used to identify the particular node as one which has the ability to transfer long messages (longer than that supported by current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP). Employing an altogether different approach, Christie involves the use of signaling messages having both origination codes and destination codes, wherein the destination codes may be converted for signaling messages directed to a plurality of signaling points. Indeed, such conversion is consistent with the goal of the Christie patent to address problems posed by changes in architecture and the needs of signaling processes.

Conversely, the present invention merely includes the use of a second point code which is used to identify a node as one having the ability to transfer long messages whereby, ultimately, the nodes together with the enhanced link sets are able to form an overlay network which can transport longer messages.

With regard to the Clarke reference, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's apparent conclusion that Clarke does teach a second point code which is used to identify a node as one having the ability to transfer long messages. While Clarke does refer to the use of both destination point codes and originating point codes, neither of such codes has anything to do with the respective node's ability to transfer long messages. The Examiner merely points out in the

Christie reference a diagram showing the general form of a signaling unit used for transferring information across links in an SS7 network, generally. Clarke only discloses, and Applicant does not disagree, that SS7 links do exist via which messages can be transmitted with up to 273 octets. In contrast thereto, however, the present invention shows how the full utilization of enhanced link sets (those which include nodes supporting the transfer of long messages) can be obtained, particularly in an overall signalization network which includes nodes and links of different capabilities. Only pursuant to the presently-claimed invention, wherein a second point code is used to identify those nodes which have the ability to transfer long messages, are such advantages achieved.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that, neither the Christie nor Clarke references, either alone or in combination with each other, teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued at this time.

It is further submitted that no fees are due in connection with this response at this time. However, if any fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112740-055) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

William E. Vaughan

Reg. No. 39,056

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4292

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) A node which supports enhanced links, having an ~~the~~ ability to transfer long longer messages which are longer than that supported by ~~according to~~ current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP, the node comprising first and second signaling point codes, wherein the second point code is used to identify the node as one having the ability to transfer the long messages ~~functions and MTP users which can make full use of the longer message length~~, and both the first and second point codes are part of a same MTP network.

Please amend Claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A node which supports enhanced links, having an ~~the~~ ability to transfer long longer messages which are longer than that supported by ~~according to~~ current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP, the node comprising first and second signaling point codes, wherein the second point code is used to identify the node as one having the ability to transfer the long messages ~~functions and MTP users which can make full use of the longer message length~~, and both the first and second point codes being part of different MTP networks.